inspection. Accordingly, an advisory has been issued to the concerned collector for stopping of felling of trees. However, the proposal for diverting forest land for construction and widening of NH-7 on the periphery of Pench Mowgli Sanctuary of Pench Tiger Reserve, Seoni, Madhya Pradesh is under consideration of the Supreme Court of India on the recommendations of Central Empowered Committee, wherein the Central Empowered Committee has recommended that alternative alignment may be used for widening of the NH-7, taking into account the impact of widening of the NH-7 on Pench Tiger Reserve. The Ministry of Environment & Forests has not given any approval for felling of trees along the NH-7 in this stretch.

Simplifying forest conservation rules

3424. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mineral resources of Madhya Pradesh are not being exploited due to complicated provisions of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and the rules made thereunder;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering to simplify these provisions;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) whether Government proposes to incorporate a provisions in the Forest Conservation Act 1980 and the rules there under for according approval to projects within a period of six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) The mineral resources of the country are exploited in the forest land with prior approval of the Central Government to the Mining proposals submitted by the State/UTs, under provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and rules made there under.

These proposals are duly considered by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) constituted under Section-3 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. While tendering the advice, the committee may suggest any conditions/restrictions on the use of any forest land for any non forestry purposes, which in its opinion would minimize adverse environmental impact. The recommendation/advice of the Forest Advisory Committee is considered by the Government for granting approval with or without conditions or reject the same. The Central Government is required to take decision within sixty day of receipt of the recommendations. This process has been followed uniformly for all categories of proposals including mining proposals for all the State/UTs. The Central Government do not propose any change in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Government approach on international conference on climate change

†3425. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.